

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 CU-02 SAM-01

DOTE-00 /082 W

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R 141715Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1103

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: LABOR: STRIKE SITUATION

REF MADRID 851

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING RECENT DAYS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS  
HAVE OCCURRED ON SPANISH STRIKE SCENE: (A) ACTORS STRIKE  
ENDED AFTER GOVT REALEASED FOUR REMAINING JAILED  
ACTORS AND ACTRESSES, WITH COMPROMISE SOLUTION OVER  
REPRESENTATIVITY ISSUE: (B) STRIKE HAS BROKEN OUT AGAIN  
IN BILBAO FIRESTONE FACTORY AND RESULTED IN COMPANY  
FIRING ENTIRE WORK FORCE; AND (C) LABOR MINISTER HAS STATED  
PUBLICLY THAT DECREE WHICH LIKELY GRANT MODIFIED RIGHT TO  
STRIKE WILL BE ISSUED SOON. CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS HAVE ALSO  
CONVOKED A "DAY OF STRUGGLE" IN MADRID FOR FEB 20,  
PARTICULARLY AIMED AT ENCOURAGING WHITE COLLAR WORKERS TO  
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STRIKE. END SUMMARY

1. ACTORS AND ACTRESSES STRIKE FINALLY ENDED FEB 12, WHEN ACTORS RETURNED TO WORK ONLY AFTER FOUR OF EIGHT ACTORS AND ACTRESSES ARRESTED FEB 8 IN CONNECTION WITH STRIKE WERE RELEASED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY. ADDITIONALLY THE GOVT AND ACTORS REACHED A COMPROMISE ON KEY WORKER REPRESENTATIVITY ISSUE WHICH HAD CAUSED STRIKE (REFTEL) COMPROMISE UPHELD GOVT-CONTROLLED SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) POSITION THAT SSO WOULD ONLY NEGOTIATE WITH PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED SSO SHOP STEWARDS IN ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE, BUT CONCEDED THAT "UNOFFICIAL" 11-MAN COMMITTEE CHOSEN BY ACTORS WOULD BE ALLOWED VOICE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN AN UNOFFICIAL BUT RECOGNIZED CAPACITY AS "ADVISORS" TO SSO REPS. THUS BOTH SSO AND ACTORS CAN EACH CLAIM PARTIAL VICTORY.

2. INDUSTRIAL STRIKE ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE PICKING UP ONCE AGAIN. AT FIRESTONE FACTORY IN BILBAO, LONG-SIMMERING CONTRACT NEGOTIATION DISPUTE BROKE OUT AGAIN INTO FULL-FLEDGED STRIKE FEB 12 WITH AN ASSEMBLY BY COMPANY'S 3,300 STRIKING WORKERS ON PLANT PREMISES WHICH WAS FINALLY BROKEN UP WHEN POLICE WERE CALLED IN TO FORCIBLY EVICT WORKERS. ON FEB 13, MANAGEMENT OF COMPANY ANNOUNCED IT WAS FIRING ALL 3,300 WORKERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ILLEGAL STRIKE. NEXT STEP IN WORSENING FIRESTONE SITUATION IS LIKELY BE THAT COMPANY WILL COMMENCE REHIRE MOST OF ITS WORKERS ON SELECTIVE BASIS.

3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, 200 STRIKING WORKERS IN MALAGA CONDUCTED SIT-IN IN CATHEDRAL, GENERAL STRIKE CALL (WHICH LIKELY TO PROVE A FAILURE) HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR TODAY IN BARCELONA BY CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS, AND STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CLASHED WITH POLICE FEB 11 IN PALMA ON ISLAND OF MALLORCA IN FIRST INCIDENT OF LABOR-RELATED VIOLENCE WHICH ANYONE IN THAT TOURIST RESORT CITY CAN REMEMBER.

4. MEANWHILE, LABOR MINISTER IN A BARCELONA SPEECH STATED THAT A GOVT DECREE DESIGNED TO "REGULATE COLLECTIVE CONFLICTS", I.E., TO DEAL WITH BURNING QUESTION OF

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WHETHER OR NOT TO GRANT MODIFIED LEGAL RIGHT TO STRIKE. IS ALMOST READY, AND HE IMPLIED IT COULD EVEN BE APPROVED AT ONE OF NEXT WEEKLY CABINET SESSIONS. HIS STATEMENT WOULD TEND CONFIRM INDICATIONS THAT GOVT MAY INTRODUCE, FOR FIRST TIME IN FRANCO SPAIN, MODIFIED LEGAL RIGHT TO STRIKE UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED CONDITIONS. (REPORTEDLY HOWEVER, IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO A WIDE VARIETY OF RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS.)

5. ALSO, SPANISH TV, WHICH IS GOVT-RUN, HAS RECENTLY INSTRUCTED ITS NEWS COMMENTATORS TO STOP THEIR EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON STRIKES AND LABOR DISPUTES.

6. VARIOUS CLANDESTINE LABOR SOURCES HAVE TOLD LABATT ALL MAJOR CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS HAVE ISSUED CALL FOR "DAY OF STRUGGLE" IN MADRID FEB 20. BY "DAY OF STRUGGLE" THEY MEAN SOMETHING SOMEWHAT SHORT OF GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT. THEY HOPE WORKERS IN A VARIETY OF UNRELATED FIRMS AND SECTORS WILL STAGE SIT-INS AND SLOW DOWNS AT THEIR WORK PLACES FOR VARYING PERIODS AT DIFFERENT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT DAY. ALTHOUGH THEY EXPECT MADRID FACTORY WORKERS TO CONDUCT BRIEF STOPPAGES, THE CALL IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED AT A NUMBER OF WHITE COLLAR AND SERVICE SECTORS WHICH, UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY, HAVE NEVER BEEN AFFECTED BY STRIKES. THUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKERS, OFFICE WORKERS, HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS, AND SHOP-KEEPERS ARE PRIME TARGETS OF STRIKE CALL. CALL ALSO APPEALS FOR PARTICIPATION GOVT HOSPITAL WORKERS (WHO HAVE BEEN STRIKING RECENTLY OVER A SERIES OF PROFESSIONAL ISSUES). IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER ORGANIZERS ALSO AIMING GET GOVT MINISTRY EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE, FOLLOWING FIRST-EVER STRIKE ACTIVITY THIS SECTOR TWO WEEKS AGO.

7. MAIN INITIATORS THIS "DAY OF STRUGGLE" FOR FEB 20 WAS REPORTEDLY CLANDESTINE SOCIALIST UGT TRADE UNION, NOT COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS (ALTHOUGH LATTER SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED CALL). HOPE OF CLANDESTINE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IS THAT, IF "DAY OF STRUGGLE" PROVES TO BE AT LEAST LIMITED SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY AMONG WHITE COLLAR WORKERS, IT COULD PROVE BE REHEARSAL FOR AN ATTEMPT LATER ON IN YEAR FOR FIRST FULL-FLEDGED MADRID GENERAL STRIKE  
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ATTEMPT.

8. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANTLY, SOCIALIST UGT AND NOT PCE-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS IS GROUPS WHOSE INITIATIVE WILL RESULT IN "DAY OF STRUGGLE" FEB 20. THIS PERHAPS MAY REFLECT INCREASING ACTIVISM OF SOCIALISTS IN LABOR SECTOR AT EXPENSE OF COMMUNISTS IN WORKERS COMMISSIONS. MUCH ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSED ON FEB 20 ATTEMPT. THERE IS GROWING REALIZATION IN CLANDESTINE LABOR SPHERE OF IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL (FOLLOWING RECENT STRIKES OF ACTORS, GOVT EMPLOYEES, AND SHOP KEEPERS) OF MOBILIZING WHITE COLLAR AND PROFESSIONAL SECTORS AGAINST GOVT. AT SAME TIME IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF CURRENT AIR UNCERTAINTY, THAT THESE HERETOFORE "ESTABLISHMENT" WHITE COLLAR SECTORS ARE STARTING TO RESORT TO PROHIBITED STRIKE

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## Message Attributes

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